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FGDC Consolidates Partnership Funding Programs

Citing the need to help organizations become "anchor tenants" in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), John Moeller, staff director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), announced the continuation of the successful FGDC partnership funding programs for 1998. The three programs, the Cooperative Agreements Program, the Framework Demonstration Projects Program, and the NSDI Benefits Program, will have common dates for announcement, receipt of proposals, and proposal review. "Over the past four years it has been gratifying to see the growth in the networks of people and organizations sharing geographic data," Moeller said. "The changes we're making to the 1998 program will make the programs easier to apply for and easier to administer."

For the first time federal agencies, as well as state, local and tribal governments, academic institutions, private companies and non-profit organizations, will be permitted to lead projects for each program. Proposals must show broad and substantial partnerships among organizations.

The **Cooperative Agreements Program**, formerly known as CCAP, funds projects to create clearinghouses of geographic data linked to the Internet, to advance the NSDI through education, to develop NSDI standards, and to help organize and strengthen state-wide or regional programs for geographic data sharing.

The **Framework Demonstration Projects Program** (FDPP) funds innovative projects that demonstrate technical, operational, and business capabilities to collaboratively create and maintain certain categories of commonly needed data. In 1998, the FDPP also will support smaller framework projects that previously were included under the Cooperative Agreements Program.

The **NSDI Benefits Program** assesses the qualitative or quantitative benefits of using a shared data resource to solve particular problems over a given geographic area.

Look for the joint announcement of these programs in early November. The FGDC web page (www.fgdc.gov) provides updates about the status of the programs, information about application materials, and summaries of previous projects. The site also contains information about the NSDI, clearinghouse, framework, standards, and partnerships.